

Message Text

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71

ACTION ARA-20

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E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJ: REACTION TO RABASA VISIT TO CHILE

1. THE RABASA VISIT TO CHILE HAS CAUSED A MINOR SENSATION IN POLITICAL, PRESS AND DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES. AT A LUNCHEON TODAY ATTENDED BY VARIOUS FOREIGN AMBASSADORS AND MEXICAN BUSINESS/BANKING FIGURES, FOLLOWING WERE AMONG COMMENTS MADE TO AMBASSADOR JOVA.

2. THE SWEDISH AND INDIAN AMBASSADORS WERE BITTERLY DISAPPOINTED AT RABASA'S TRIP, FEELING IT HAD DULLED MEXICO'S IMAGE AS A STRONG THIRD WORLD EXPONENT. THE SWEDISH AMB (CARL SWARTZ) FELT THAT MEXICO HAD GAINED NO ADVANTAGE AS AFTER ALL THE ASYLEES WOULD HAVE BEEN RELEASED SOONER OR LATER AND THAT THIS ATTEMPT AT A "KISSINGERESQUE TYPE NEGOTIATION" HAD BEEN A MISTAKE EFFECTED TO BOLSTER THE PERSONAL IMAGE OF RABASA AND PERHAPS OF ECHEVERRIA. HE NOTED THAT EXCELSIOR EDITORIALS AND COLUMNISTS HAD BEEN CRITICAL OF THE OPERATION AND FELT THAT THIS WAS TRUE IN LEFT-WING AND INTELLECTUAL CIRCLES. THE INDIAN AMBASSADOR (S.K. ROY) AGREED IN GENERAL WITH THESE STATEMENTS BUT FELT THAT OBTAINING THE RELEASE OF THE ASYLEES

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WAS IN ITSELF A PLUS. THE URUGUAYAN AMBASSADOR (JUAN

BAUTISTA OCHTECO) HAD JUST COME FROM THE FOREIGN OFFICE WHERE HE HAD SPOKEN TO GONZALEZ PARRODI (RABASA'S AIDE WHO HAD ACCOMPANIED HIM) AS WELL AS OTHER MINISTEY OFFICIALS. HE WAS STRUCK BY THE CHANGE IN THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD CHILE, FEELING THAT THEY HAD RETURNED WITH A MUCH MORE BALANCED VIEW OF THE SITUATION THERE AND CERTAINLY ONE CONSIDERABLY DIFFERENT FROM THE JULIO SHERER (EDITOR OF EXCELSIOR) LINE. THUS, HE THOUGHT THAT THE TRIP HAD BEEN A WHOLESOME EXERCISE AS IT HAD NOT ONLY RESULTED IN A MORE BALANCED GOM VIEWPOINT BUT HAD ALSO LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR NORMALIZED RALATIONS. THIS WAS GOOD FOR LATIN AMERICA AS A WHOLE AS A SCHISM BETWEEN CHILE AND MEXICO WAS DIVISIVE AND MADE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO ATTAIN UNIFIED LATIN POSITIONS ON WORLD AS WELL AS HEMISPHERIC PROBLEMS.

3. THE MEXICAN BUSINESS/BANKING PERSONS WERE PLEASED ABOUT THE TRIP AND CONSIDERED IT HAS LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH CHILE AND A FURTHER CONFIRMATION THAT PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA RECOGNIZES THE DANGERS OF HIS PRESENT LEFTIST POLICIES AND THUS WISHES NOW TO FIND A MORE MODERATE COURSE. MEXICO AFTER ALL HAD ENOUGH PROBLEMS OF ITS OWN (I.E., SENATOR FIGUEROA'S KIDNAPPING) AND ALSO NEEDED TO ESTABLISH A MORE CENTRAL IMAGE IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE MORE WORLDWIDE INVESTMENT.

JOVA

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